

LIFE Year 9 Curriculum

Year 9 Curriculum Intent: Students will explore the core themes within the Life curriculum:

- **Health, Relationships and Wellbeing:** Students will explore the importance of making informed decisions about their health and relationships. They will examine topics such as alcohol and drug abuse and the impact of gambling on mental health and financial wellbeing. Lessons will also address healthy relationships, emphasising consent and understanding how the law protects individuals in relationships. Through discussions on pregnancy and contraception, students will learn about reproductive health, including the responsibilities associated with parenthood.
- **Citizenship:** Students will investigate their role as active citizens, exploring gangs and exploitation to understand the risks and strategies for staying safe. They will gain a deeper understanding of the UK legal system, including the differences between civil and criminal law, the role of the CPS, and sentencing. Lessons on young people and the justice system will highlight the importance of lawful behaviour and individual rights. Through topics such as crime in the UK and anti-social behaviour, students will analyse societal issues and explore practical ways to contribute to crime reduction and safer communities.
- **Careers:** Students will identify their strengths and aspirations, linking their skills to GCSE Options, Post-16/18 future career pathways and aspirations. They will participate in activities like careers fairs, technical provider sessions and lessons on employee rights and health and safety in the workplace to prepare them for future employment. Through this, students will gain an understanding of workplace responsibilities, enabling them to transition confidently into professional environments.

This curriculum aims to support students' personal growth, resilience, and sense of social responsibility. By promoting informed decision-making, active citizenship, and career readiness, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to thrive in school, work, and their wider communities.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Main Topic	Health, Relationships and Wellbeing	Health, Relationships and Wellbeing Living in the Wider World	Living in the Wider World
Secondary Topics	• Alcohol and Drug Abuse • Gambling • Gangs and Exploitation • Healthy relationships and the law, relationships in the media	• Pregnancy and contraception • Career skills • Making informed KS4 choices • Career journey • Working and earning money • The labour market	• Political parties (who to vote for) • Balancing a political budget • How laws are made • Devolution • Volunteer Groups • Prevent
Curriculum links	The topics covered in this term will be built upon the spiralled themes throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, covering the following: • Year 8 - Addiction and Legal Highs: In Year 8, students looked at the impact of addiction and the developed understanding of what legal highs are. • Year 11 - Domestic violence: During Year 11, students will build on their prior knowledge of healthy relationships and look at domestic violence and how to identify it and where to get help.	The topics covered in this term will be built upon the spiralled themes throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, covering the following: • Year 11 - Career skills: Within the Year 11 curriculum, students will explore what employability skills are and how they can improve as they look ahead to future careers. • Year 10 - Work Experience: During Year 10, students will build upon their work in careers lessons and participate in work experience. This will allow students to make informed choices for their post 16 education.	The topics covered in this term will be built upon the spiralled themes throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, covering the following: • Year 11 - Radicalisation: Year 11 look at the idea of radicalisation and the warning signs to spot. This will build upon work from KS3 on Prevent. • Year 8 - Civil and Criminal Law: In Year 8, students will have started to look at how laws are created and the difference between civil and criminal law. This then provides the basis to explore topics such as devolution and the CPS.

Cross-curricular links	Science, English, Maths, Computer Science, Business Studies, Geography, Art, History			Computer Science, Business Studies, English, Geography, History, Science, Design & Technology			History, Religion & Worldviews, English, Maths, Geography, Science, Business Studies		
	Reproductive System	Global perspectives on access to contraception and maternal healthcare	Urbanisation and crime	Safety considerations in different industries	Employer and employee responsibilities	Digital skills	Development of the UK legal system	Analysing crime rate data	Courtroom speeches
Interleaving of skills	Through the spiralled Life curriculum, we consistently revisit and integrate core skills across different topics to reinforce learning and deepen students' understanding. For example, we develop critical thinking and decision-making skills as we explore themes like relationships, mental health, and online safety, embedding these skills across the curriculum. Similarly, empathy, resilience, and respect are strengthened as students tackle a range of issues, from ethical dilemmas to citizenship and financial education. This approach allows students to apply skills in different contexts and transfer them to real-life scenarios, enhancing their personal development and ability to adapt.								
Literacy	Reading focus: Students will develop their understanding of topics by reading through case studies and complete scenario based activities. Oracy focus: Students will engage in structured whole class discussions about ethical dilemmas and relevant current affairs relating to each topic. Key vocabulary focus: ● Consequences ● Possession ● Vaping ● High street gambling ● Online gambling ● Gangs ● Peer influence ● Exploitation ● Consent ● Coercive control			Reading focus: Students will develop their understanding of topics by reading through case studies and complete scenario based activities. Oracy focus: Students will engage in structured whole class discussions about ethical dilemmas and relevant current affairs relating to each topic. Key vocabulary focus: ● Contraception ● Abortion ● Career journey ● Decision making ● Budgeting ● Salary ● Labour market ● Job market			Reading focus: Students will develop their understanding of topics by reading through case studies and complete scenario based activities. Oracy focus: Students will engage in structured whole class discussions about ethical dilemmas and relevant current affairs relating to each topic. Key vocabulary focus: ● Prime Minister ● Democracy ● Parliament ● Devolution ● Legislative ● Judiciary ● Public institution ● Voluntary groups ● Budgeting ● Extremism		
Cultural capital	Exploring these topics equips students with the knowledge to make informed life choices, understand societal challenges, and develop critical thinking. Awareness of health risks, relationship dynamics, media influence, and legal protections fosters resilience, empathy, and			Exploring these topics equips students with the skills to make informed career decisions, understand workplace rights and responsibilities, and prioritise safety. Engaging in careers fairs and identifying career pathways fosters aspiration, confidence, and practical knowledge, preparing students for successful			These topics foster informed citizenship, critical thinking, and active participation in society. Understanding political parties, laws, budgets, and devolution highlights governance and representation, while involvement with volunteer groups and Prevent promotes empathy, tolerance, and social cohesion.		

	responsible citizenship, empowering students to navigate complex social and personal situations effectively.	transitions into further education, training, or employment.	Together, these elements build a foundation for engagement in democratic and inclusive communities.
Gatsby Benchmark 4 - Linking Curriculum to Careers Assessment	The Year 9 curriculum aligns with the Gatsby Benchmarks by providing a stable careers programme that addresses individual needs while linking curriculum learning to real-world contexts. Students engage with labour market information through topics like Careers fairs and Career pathways and gain insights into workplace expectations through Employee rights and Health and safety. Encounters with employers, further education providers, and advisors through fairs and lessons ensure exposure to diverse opportunities, while broader discussions on The law, Crime reduction, and Anti-social behaviour inspire exploration of civic and professional roles. This approach equips students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed for informed career choices and personal development.		
Assessment	Pupils will be assessed via regular 'scenario' based tasks that test their developing knowledge and understanding of how to lead a safe, healthy and productive life. Pupils will produce a reflective mind map. They will complete the mind map at the start of the unit of work and the end to reflect on what has been learnt over the scheme of work.	Pupils will be assessed via regular 'scenario' based tasks that test their developing knowledge and understanding of how to lead a safe, healthy and productive life. Pupils will produce a reflective mind map. They will complete the mind map at the start of the unit of work and the end to reflect on what has been learnt over the scheme of work.	Pupils will be assessed via regular 'scenario' based tasks that test their developing knowledge and understanding of how to lead a safe, healthy and productive life. Pupils will produce a reflective mind map. They will complete the mind map at the start of the unit of work and the end to reflect on what has been learnt over the scheme of work.